

Library

STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1954

J.H.C. Eglinton
Medical Officer of Health

L.C. Corlett
Sanitary Inspector

August, 1955.

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
STREET

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health of the Urban District for the year 1954 and would emphasize the following points of interest.

Population

The population of Street continues to increase, the estimated mid-year figure being 6,030 as compared with 5,964 in 1953 and 5,746 in 1952.

Births

A further increase in the number of live births is noted, 101 as compared with 84 in 1953 and 66 in 1952.

Deaths

Deaths from Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions continue to predominate; those from cancer being next in severity as last year.

Infant Mortality

You will, with interest, compare the decreased Infant Mortality Rate with the increased birth rate.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

We have been particularly free from cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease during a year of rather inclement weather and one in which there has been considerable illness.

Diphtheria Immunizations

May I again stress the importance of Immunization against Diphtheria and welcome an increase in the number of Primary Inoculations.

Mass Radiography

The importance of Mass Radiography cannot be over-emphasised and one is pleased to note a further increase in numbers taking advantage of it with the hope that its scope may again be increased next year.

Housing

The housing situation and the efforts to deal with it continue to be one of the main pre-occupations of the Council.

Food

May I stress the greatest importance of maintaining the clean handling of food and supporting the Government's recommendation in the wrapping of foodstuffs.

Milk and Water

Effort has continually been made to maintain a clean milk and an adequate water supply.

Slaughterhouses

You will, with interest, deduce to what extent the two slaughter-houses, licensed on October 19th, are being used.

In conclusion, may I, once again, thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued courtesy and the Staff for their loyalty and help..

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1954

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 acres.

Population

The estimated mid-year Home population for 1954 was 6,030.

A Penny Rate produces £128 (approx).

Geology

The strata consists of lower lias, alternate beds of limestone, clays and marls.

Occupations

The principal occupations carried on at Street are shoe making, the manufacture of leather-board, agriculture, tanning, vehicle building and animal feeding stuffs manufacture.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
The number of live births, one illegitimate was.....	101	84
(Male 53, Female 48)		
Giving a live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated home population of.....	16.74	14.08
The number of still births was.....	2	5
Giving a still birth rate per 1000 of.....	19.89	56.07
The total number of deaths was.....	59	36
(Male 23, Female 36)		
Giving a death rate per 1000 of the estimated home population of.....	9.78	6.3

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year.....	1	21
Giving an Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births of.....	9.90	10.90

The rates for England and Wales have not been received this year.

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis (respiratory).....	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach: 2).....	9	9
(lung : 1)		
(breast : 1)		
(uterus : 0)		
(other : 5)		
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	8	6
Coronary disease, angina.....	6	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	0	4
Other heart disease.....	14	2
Other circulatory disease.....	8	0
Influenza.....	2	0
Bronchitis.....	2	0
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis.....	0	1
Nephritis.....	1	0
Congenital malformations.....	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	1	0
All other accidents.....	2	1
Suicide.....	1	0

Notification of Infectious Diseases

Measles.....	19	140
Pneumonia	4	10
Fuerperal Pyrexia.....	1	0

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory.....	4	5
Deaths during year	0	3

Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary.....	96	72
Reinforcing.....	99	128
Of these:		
Primary (under one year: 49)		
Primary (1 - 2 years : 27)		

The number of children at 31st December, 1954 who had completed a course of Immunization (whether primary or booster) within the last five years i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1950 - 667.

Vaccination

Number of reported vaccinations:		
Primary.....	31	14
Re-vaccination.....	5	5

Child Welfare and Nursing Association

The Child Welfare and Nursing Association have again had a very busy year giving an invaluable service to the community. The demands on the Nurses' services continue to increase; there are, at present, three nurses and with the growing population this number must obviously be maintained and I can envisage even four nurses becoming necessary in the foreseeable future. The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon in a section of the Hindhayes Infant School when the District Nurses ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays.

Diphtheria Immunization Sessions also take place on the last Wednesday in the month.

The Welfare Committee and Voluntary Helpers greatly contribute to its smooth running.

The Nurses' activities include the following:-

Maternity

Home Confinements	35
Ante-Natal Home Visits	603
Attendance at Doctors Ante-Natal Sessions	72
Maternity Nursing Visits	580

Infant Welfare

Clinic Sessions	51
Clinic Attendances	1,216
Doctors Consultations	154
Immunizations	88

Infant Visiting in the Homes

0 - 1 year	1,101
1 - 2 years	513
2 - 5 years	848
Total	<u>2,462</u>

General Nursing

6,145 visits

School Medical Sessions

44

School Follow-up Home Visits

102

It will be seen that the work of the District Nurses includes maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections &c. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties.

The number of visits to old people continues to be an important part of the work.

Analgesia

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and the mothers are given analgesia at their confinements if so desired.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service, with a local Honorary Organiser, is under the direction and control of the County Council and is part of the County Health Scheme. It continues to be an invaluable service. Its success is in no small measure due to the efforts of Mrs. Marsden, the local organiser, whose efforts I cannot too highly praise.

It has again had an exceptionally busy year and it proved impossible to cover all the work at all times with local help owing to illness amongst the workers and the number of cases. It has, therefore, on occasion, been necessary to obtain help from outside the district, this help being reciprocated whenever possible.

A minimum number of 8 workers is still required for the work.

The service rendered is primarily during illness in the home, being particularly valuable to the elderly people and to those living alone. In addition, assistance is rendered in domiciliary, maternity and midwifery cases, operation cases &c.

Old People's Welfare

The Street Old People's Welfare Committee formed in 1951 successfully continues its activities.

The Social Club has become firmly established and has met weekly on Thursdays at the Crispin Hall. The members played cards, dominoes and chess, read the wide variety of periodicals provided or just chatted together. Outings, including a mystery trip to West Bay and a visit to Sidmouth were again arranged during the summer, and various entertainments were given. A great deal of help was again forthcoming from voluntary organisations.

The Visiting Service was continued during the year and old people unable to get out and about were regularly visited in their homes by a team of visitors and visits were also arranged to old people from Street in the hospitals in Wincanton and Wells and 47 parcels were distributed to the old people, who were unable to leave their homes, at Christmas. There appears to be a very great need for such a service which undoubtedly gives pleasure to the old people concerned.

The Meals on Wheels Service has been successfully maintained and continues to deliver hot midday meals to old people in their homes at a small cost.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Street, 1,830 being surveyed at Messrs. C. and J. Clark's factory as compared with 1,703 last year.

Dogs and Shops

The general public have again co-operated with the shopkeepers and continued to respond to the appeal of the local authority to exclude dogs from shops, particularly food shops.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

This bath, privately owned, situated in Wilfrid Road, Street, was made possible through a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, a pioneer in the welfare of women and children. It has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and district, people and school parties coming from considerable distances.

The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons, the water is heated and the children's section is separate from the adults.

The attendance at the pool for the season, which proved a very rainy one, amounted to 27,600; included in this number were 7,000 school children under instruction.

The method of purification continued to be breakpoint chlorination, tests for free chlorine, alkalinity and bicarbonate alkalinity being taken several times a day. No complaints received with regard to smarting eyes.

Regular samples were taken by the local authority and sent to the County Analyst, the results being generally satisfactory.

A qualified Bath Superintendent with other helpers is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th.

Parks

There are two small parks in Street, at Merriman Gardens and Wraxhill, for the elderly people's relaxation and children's amusements. In addition, there is the Victoria Playing Field where cricket, tennis and football are played; there is also a Playing Field and Sports Ground in Grange Road belonging to Messrs. C. and J. Clark, Ltd.

The work of restoration of Wood's Batch Recreation Ground was commenced during the latter end of the year. This area was the site of temporary hutments, and when the project is completed will be a further amenity for the health and wellbeing of the people of Street.

Indeed the facilities provided above are real assets to the district and it is noticeable how well patronized are the sun shelter and ornamental seats in Merriman Gardens.

Housing

The Council has continued its building programme by continued development at the Portland Site - the programme being on a slightly reduced scale. Steps were also taken with a view to development on a site at the rear of Brooks Road.

Milk and Dairies

This is a milk producing district and the usual routine visits were paid to the retail dairies in the district. The results of the regular samples taken by the County Council from the local dairymen in relation to school milk supply seem to indicate that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is being maintained.

Slaughter Houses

After considerable investigation and discussion, the Council agreed to licence two of the Slaughter houses in the district subject to minimum requirements being carried out. These works were completed in October and slaughtering has continued in these two slaughterhouses since this time. Regular inspections are made whenever slaughtering is in progress; details of which may be found in the appropriate section of this report.

Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens &c.

Routine inspections and re-inspections of these premises were again carried out during the year and notice of the occupiers was drawn to any item requiring attention.

Factories

Routine inspections of factories etc. have been made including inspections in connection with lavatory accommodation. Attention was drawn to necessary alterations to several of the conveniences, the same being carried out in accordance with the requests made.

Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year were:

1. From within the Urban District : 6 (3 in 1953)
2. From without the Urban District : 6 (15 in 1953)

Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was:

53 (30 in 1953).

Water

After considerable difficulty and time being devoted to flushing out the new section of trunk main, it was brought into use on the 18th May, 1954 and has been in use since that time.

This has had the effect of reducing considerably, the number of hours required for booster pumping and has also enabled a considerable improvement in the supply to Godney, Polsham and Meare.

WATER SUPPLY

(1) Has the water supply of the district been satisfactory -

(a) In quality: Yes

(b) In quantity: Yes. Main source in use whole year.
Only necessary to supplement supply from Honeyhurst
Well for short periods in summer.

(2) State particulars of any shortage which may have occurred during year and steps taken to remedy same:- Nil.

(3) Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
				28	3	1	

(4) Waters liable to have Plumbo-solvent action - state what action taken: Nil.

(5) Action respecting any form of contamination:-

Where unsatisfactory sample occurred, follow-up samples taken with satisfactory results.

(6) Water Supplies from Public Mains:-

(a)	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
	1,761	6,075 Estimated	6 Estimated Figure	25 Estimated

(b) No. of parishes with piped water supply:-

(i) from public mains: 1 (ii) from private sources: -

(c) No. of parishes without a piped supply of water:
Not applicable.

(d) No. of cases in which piped supply was substituted for:-

(i) well water: Nil (ii) private source: Nil
(iii) other: Nil

(7) Water supplies from wells:-

Nil

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies during year:

The new 4½ mile section of 15" trunk main brought into use during the year.

Extensions made to existing supply mains to serve new housing sites.

Future Proposals:- give in Priority Groups, parishes or villages concerned.

Where necessary to future housing sites.

Any observations Nil

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Give list of parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:-

Main drainage to district.

Give any extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year:-

Extensions of sewer to serve new Housing Site.

Future Proposals:- give Priority Group I, villages concerned and any observations.

Not applicable.

CAMPING SITES

- (a) No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued:
One individual caravan for limited period.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in district on 31st December, 1954:- Figures not known. Very few pail closets in district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

How is House Refuse removed:-

- (a) By Contract or direct labour: Direct Labour.
(b) No. and type of vehicles employed: One Karrier Bantam
Refuse Vehicle
(c) Frequency of collection: Weekly
(d) No. of parishes covered by routine collections: Whole district

How is House and Trade Refuse disposed of:-

- (a) No. of controlled tips: One
(b) No. of uncontrolled tips: -
(c) By incineration: -

Cesspool Emptying

- (a) Is cesspool emptying carried out by: (i) Local Authority: No
(ii) Contract : No
(b) Is a charge made, if so how is it based? Not applicable.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

	No.	Location	<u>Estimated Average number of Bathers daily during Season</u>
(a) <u>Privately owned</u>	1	Greenbank Swimming Pool	100-150 during season
(b) <u>Owned by Local Authority</u>		Nil	

Water used and purification plant:-

Name of Bath	Water			Type of Purification Plant	Treatment			
	Main	Sea	Other		Recir- cula- tion	Fil- tra- tion	Chlorination	
							Auto- matic	Hand
Greenbank Swimming Pool, Wilfrid Road	Yes			Chlorination and pressure filter	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Exam	3	1	

Any observations

A very satisfactory state of cleanliness maintained at all times at this Pool.

HOUSING

	Houses erected during year	Houses in course of erection	Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
Local Authority	44	38		
Private Enterprise	15	12	-	-
TOTALS	59	50		

Inclusive of those above built during the year:-

Give - Total number of houses in District 1,267
" " " " owned by Local Authority 497

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1954		Housing Programme for 1955
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	
345	55	50

- (a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken. Figure repeated from last year. Estimated 65. Programme yet to be decided.
- (b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit. Nil
- (c) No. of houses occupied under - (a) (b)
- (d) No. of temporary housing units occupied, viz. Huts etc.

No. of houses found overcrowded.

Houses required:-

- (i) To replace those unfit under - (a) Est. 65 (b) -
(ii) To abate overcrowding Est. 60
(iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g. two families
living in same house but not included in (i) or (ii) -

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year:
160

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

Nil

FOOD

MILK

- (a) No. of Registered Distributors: 4
(b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises: 5
(c) No. of supplementary licences issued to
distributors whose dairy is outside your area: 1

Milk Sampling

Samples taken by County Council

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

- (a) Manufacture and retail: 1
(b) Manufacture only : -
(c) Retail only : 14

No. of samples taken: Nil by this Authority

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

- (a) If slaughter-house or abattoir owned or
leased by Local Authority No.

	<u>NUMBER</u>	
	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Operating</u>
(b) Private slaughter-houses	2	2
(c) Bacon Factories	Nil	Nil
(d) No. of slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	Nil	Nil

Total number of animals slaughtered during year under:-

- (b) 231, comprising 33 Cattle,
83, Pigs, 113 Sheep and
2 Calves

Slaughtering only commenced in November in this district.

Approximate weight of meat condemned - in lbs - :-

	<u>Cattle</u>		<u>Sheep</u>		<u>Pigs</u>	
	<u>T.B.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>T.B.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>T.B.</u>	<u>Other</u>
under (a)						
(b)	30	-	-	-	12lbs	-
(c)						
(d)						

Observations if any

Tinned foods condemned: 34 lbs. 4 oz

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

No. registered under Section 14
of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. -

BYELAWS MADE UNDER SECTION 15 of the FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Any action taken respecting enforcement and result: Nil.

Observations if any Nil

KNACKERS YARDS

No. registered: Nil

